



SENTENCE COMPLETION

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ABSTRACT

A Sentence is a group of words having a subject, and a predicate, with a main clause, one or more subordinate clauses.

Sentence completion is tested to draw the knowledge of a student in vocabulary and more in logic. It helps to draw inferences on how the student knows, the precise arrangement of words in a sentence correctly.

In this paper my aim is to identify some factors of sentence completion strategies to enhance the student's skills.

KEYWORDS: Sentence completion, Sentence validity, Technique, Vocabulary, Pro-active solving, Tone, Logic, Closest option, Signpost words, Root-words, Cause and Effect.

SIGNIFICANCE OF SENTENCE COMPLETION:

Sentence completion is asked in most of the competitive examinations with one or two blanks. Generally single blanks are questioned in the conclusion part, and double blanks are questioned in the beginning and the conclusion parts, to draw the knowledge of a student in Vocabulary, logic, sometimes in "asserting the personality, attitudes, beliefs, motivations and mental status of a student" - (www.en.m.wiki.sentence). In the beginning, sentence completion was treated as an intelligence test, now it is understood that, it is a technique to extract the concealing feelings of a person.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To study the current awareness of the students in the Sentence completion.
2. To teach the students to construct a sentence with correct order of words.
3. To instruct the students to select the correct answer for to fill in the blanks.

Sample of my study:

I have selected 50 students of Degree level for one semester, for my study.

Design of the study:

my study is a descriptive one.

Sentence completion is to fill the blank with a word/phrase or a sentence. It is dealt with intelligence, knowledge, impact of the society that one is dwelling and logic. One can acquire skills in sentence completion following certain strategies. The sentence with a single blank needs good vocabulary and more logic, but, for sentence with double blanks, the information of the second blank depends on the first blank.

Ex; Sita and Geetha went for shopping, they both were _____ so, they decided to purchase _____ and share.

- a) Exhausted ---- a meal
- b) Starving ---- Medicine
- c) Thirsty ---- beverage
- d) Confused ---- snack.

Among the options given here, checked with the blanks, the first option exhausted ----meal doesn't suite as people don't take a meal when they are exhausted, they require 'rest'. When second option is considered, people do not take medicine when they are starving; they want something to eat. When third option is considered, it aptly suites the two blanks as people require beverage when they are thirsty, it satisfies the English Language and logic. The fourth option 'd' confused ---- snack, is also missing the logic, so, we can consider the option 'c', 'Thirsty---- beverage' as the right answer. Hence its evident that Logic is as important as expertise in Vocabulary.

Strategies used to complete a sentence.

Strategy 1.

Proactive-solving:

Pro-active solving is guessing the answer. We are aware that the structure of the

sentence is subject +verb +object i.e the subject and predicate using the prior knowledge in a sentence structure, the blank can be predicted accordingly.

Tone

The answer can be predicted according to the tone used in the sentence.

Logic

Most of the time logic helps in predicting the answer.

Closest option

Choose the closest option.

Identify the clues present in the sentence.

Clue1

Signpost words

The words that show the directions are signpost words.

There are two types of sign post words

Positive sign post words

The list of positive sign post words are

1. also
2. or
3. In addition to

Example for the positive signpost words

In addition to the salary, he was given _____

- a) Terminating order
- b) Bonus
- c) Extra-work
- d) Memo

Negative sign post words

Negative sign post words are

1. But
2. Despite
3. Yet
4. However
5. Unless
6. Rather
7. Although
8. Even though
9. In spite

An Example for negative sign post words

Professor 'X' is an expertise in English Language, but, he ____.

- a) Never applied for Leave
- b) Gained knowledge
- c) Stammers
- d) Never took the class

When all the options are considered,, option 'c' is the right answer according to the above discussed negative sign post words.

Clue 2

Root-words

For some root words we add a prefix in the beginning and a suffix in the ending. If one is good at vocabulary, the unknown words can be segmented in the format of prefix, root word and a suffix. Thus the meaning of the word can be predicted, with which the answer can be guessed easily. Sometimes this is misleading.

Example

Un + Employ + ment

Here 'Un' is the negative prefix, 'employ' is the root word, which is an adjective 'ment' is the suffix.

'Employ' is a positive word which becomes negative by adding the prefix 'Un' to the noun 'employment'.

If we take the word, 'exceptional' this word is insensible if, fragmented into prefix and root word. – (www.niftyword.com)

Thus at times, this clue may not work in finding the right answer.

Strategy 2

a) Cause and Effect

The sentences framed with the words like 'so', 'since', 'as a result of', 'because', 'therefore' hints the cause and effect.

Ex; the child ate an Ice-cream, so, he ____.

- a) Caught cold
- b) Was thrilled
- c) Decided to eat one more
- d) Wanted to buy Ice cream shop.

Option 'a' will be the right answer according to the strategy, cause and effect.

b) Definitions/Re-Statement

Sometimes the punctuation marks like Colon, Semicolon, Coma, means something more, gives more information.

Ex; "The politician was acting according to the interests", of his ____ in his own town.

- a) Participants
- b) Passers by
- c) Supporters
- d) Commitments

The right option here is 'c'. As the coma has played the vital role in changing the meaning of the sentence.

c) Parts of Speech

When one is good at identifying the parts of speech in the structure of the sentence, can easily pick the right answer.

Ex; Shakespeare has gained extra ordinary ____ throughout the world.

- a) Aggressively
- b) Abdicating
- c) Momentous
- d) Recognition

If the student identifies the blank as a 'noun', it would be an easy task for him to pick option 'd' as the right answer for the above asked question, where as the option 'a' is an 'adverb', 'b' a verb and 'c' an adjective.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS:

This is how, by employing all the above strategies, like proactive solving, that is guessing the answer, and the clues like tone, logic, signpost words, cause and

effect, definitions, parts of speech, one can elect the right answer efficiently by practicing all the above mentioned strategies to gain skills in filing a sentence, correctly. I would suggest more in depth research in transformation of sentences.

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